

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DIVISION OF LOCAL ASSISTANCE, MS 1

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*Flex your power!  
Be energy efficient!*

January 22, 2003

To: All Local Agencies Having Bridges Funded Under the Local  
Seismic Safety Retrofit Program

This letter is to advise local agencies of the funding changes relating to the State match provided for projects in the Local Seismic Safety Retrofit Program (LSSRP).

The Governor recently signed Assembly Bill No. 2996 into law. Included in this bill was the elimination of the Local Seismic Safety Retrofit Program as a State mandate and the allocation of State Highway Account (SHA) funds to cover local agencies' match for this program subject to the annual Budget Act.

The Governor's proposed budget for the California Department of Transportation (Department) reduces the Local Assistance budget for State matching funds for the LSSRP by \$10.5 million for the current fiscal year (FY) and \$13 million in FY 2003/04. Reductions come from SHA funding for the LSSRP. With these proposed reductions no additional funding is being provided for the State match for seismic retrofit projects. However, State matching funds previously encumbered by an executed Program Supplemental Agreement are still available. There is no proposed reduction in the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP) funding of this program.

Pursuant to the Governor's proposed January 10, 2003 budget, the Department is required to ensure that the estimated savings would be available on June 30, 2003. This requires the Department to suspend any additional State match for projects in the LSSRP.

Local agencies are still responsible for the maintenance and safety of their bridges and the lack of State funds for this program does not release the local agencies from these responsibilities. We encourage local agencies to take advantage of the 80 percent HBRRP funding available for this program and proceed with their seismic retrofit projects as soon as possible. To assist you with your projects District Local Assistance Engineers and Structure Local Assistance Engineers can provide help in many areas such as scoping projects, consultant selection, contract negotiation, contract management training, and PS&E reviews, depending on staff availability.

A list of seismic retrofit candidate bridges is available on the Internet located in the Caltrans Local Assistance homepage at: [www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/)

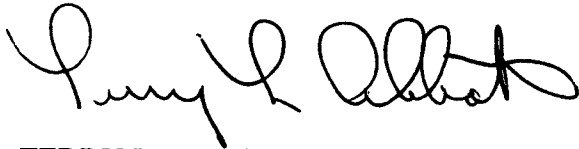
All Local Agencies Having Bridges Funded Under  
the Local Seismic Safety Retrofit Program

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If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your Caltrans District Local Assistance Engineer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terry L. Abbott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Terry" and last name "Abbott" clearly distinguishable.

TERRY L. ABBOTT

Chief

Division of Local Assistance

c: District Directors  
Deputy District Directors for Local Assistance  
District Local Assistance Engineers